

## ANNUAL REPORT

### LOYOLA CHAIR IN ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNICATIONS

2004-2005

Environmental Communications is a nationally emerging specialty in the field of Communications. There are presently only two endowed chairs and fewer than ten endowed professorships in this field in the United States. Most are held by persons with a Ph.D. in Communications or a related field or people who have served a distinguished career in the journalism private sector. At Loyola University New Orleans, the holder of the Loyola Chair in Environmental Communications has a Ph.D. in Vertebrate Zoology and has spent the majority of his career as an environmental educator as Founding and Executive Director of the Louisiana Nature Center. In this role, he focused his attention on communicating complex environmental issues to the breadth of the Greater New Orleans community - from five year olds through school age to adults. He developed means of communicating environmental information to those who are highly educated and those with less academic success.

The field of Environmental Communications is an increasingly important element in the State of Louisiana. No other state is so dependant on its natural resources and their direct and indirect use as is Louisiana. Much valuable time and effort is spent dealing with poorly understood and/or false information. It is, therefore, crucial that our state's professional communicators (especially print and broadcast journalists) refine their abilities to communicate the often very complex and vitally important information relative to the impact of human use of natural resources on the environment. The co-existence of economic and environmental well-being is vitally important to Louisiana. If the citizens do not understand the implications of the use of natural resources and exposure to the by-products of their use, then the state will never reach its economic and human potential.

An environmentally educated citizenry will make the right choices for our state's economic and environmental health.

One of the foci of the Loyola program is to improve communications among stakeholders in environmental issues in the State of Louisiana. This is done by the Loyola University Center for Environmental Communications (LUCEC) staff working on environmental intervention programs (such as the EPA's Common Sense Initiative) and hosting the Institute for Environmental Communications (IEC) (a program that brings together citizens from business/industry, environmental activism, government, science, and the media to have an open discussion of the issues).

Another is to work with environmental communicators in Latin America (Belize and Trinidad at this time) and the Caribbean (the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States) to solve their problems. The economic linkage between Louisiana and Latin America is obvious and is

part of economic plans throughout the state.

The Loyola Chair in Environmental Communications sponsors the only program in this arena in the state. It is one of only eight of its kind in the nation, and the only one with the holder of the chair being a scientist and having a background in environmental education.

The endowment funds available to the Loyola Chair in Environmental Communications have served as the cornerstone for the activities of the Center for Environmental Communications (LUCEC), and its subsidiary program - the Institute for Environmental Communications (IEC).

The following are activities directly funded by the endowment proceeds:

- General operation of the office was guaranteed.
- The web site was maintained and continually updated (<http://www.loyno.edu/lucec>). During this academic year, a specific Chair site was maintained: <http://www.loyno.edu/lucec/chair/chairweb.htm>.
- The chair holder was able to be active in the International Federation of Environmental Journalists (serving as General Secretary), thus networking with international colleagues.
- LUCEC maintained communications projects in the tropics. This was the final year of a project (Caribbean Environmental Communications Initiative) that was funded by USAID (through the University of New Orleans Foundation) that is training environmental journalists and ecotourism businesses in the Caribbean.
- Hosted a number of national and international environmental journalists.
- The LUCEC traveling exhibit was updated to reflect changes in the program.
- Magazines and other publications were made available for students.
- Student workers were hired to work on LUCEC projects.
- New software was purchased to maintain efficient communication.
- A Geographic Information Systems (GIS) workshop was held for Loyola researchers and software purchased with a grant from the Provost's office.
- Continued a student audit of the environmental operations of Loyola University.
- Designed a longitudinal study to assess the impact on the Diamond Community (an African-American neighborhood in Norco, Louisiana) citizens after a buy-out by Shell Chemical and Motiva Enterprises.
- Developed the format for a resource center consisting of broadcast news clips on environmental topics. This will be made available for teaching and research through LUCEC.
- Attended, as the only invited non-Belizean, the initial PACT Challenge, a major event in the Belize Chiquibul rainforest intended to draw attention to the need to conserve such resources.
- Developed and negotiated a weekly environmental talk show that will be launched in

August.

- Write a quarterly nature column for Louisiana Levant Magazine.

## ENHANCEMENT OF CONTINUING/NEW AREAS OF RESEARCH/INQUIRY

The funds allowed the Chair to attend meetings, visit with colleagues, and gather extensive research materials for his environmental communications research program.

## PUBLICATIONS: PEER REVIEWED

Bailey, Joseph R. and **Robert A. Thomas**. Submitted. A revision of the South American snake genus *Thamnodynastes* Wagler, 1830 (Serpentes: Colubridae). I. The Tribe Tachymenini, with comments on the status of its genera. **Comunicações do Museu de Ciências da PUCRS (Brazil)**.

Bailey, Joseph R., **Robert A. Thomas**, and Nelson J. da Silva, Jr. In press. A revision of the South American snake genus *Thamnodynastes* Wagler, 1830 (Serpentes: Colubridae). II. Two new species of *Thamnodynastes* from central Brazil, and adjacent areas, with a redescription of and neotype description for *Thamnodynastes pallidus*. **Phyllomedusa (Brazil)**.

Bailey, Joseph R. and **Robert A. Thomas**. Submitted. A revision of the South American snake genus *Thamnodynastes* Wagler, 1830 (Serpentes: Colubridae). III. Three new species of *Thamnodynastes* from northern South America, with further descriptions of *Thamnodynastes gambotensis* Pérez-Santos and Moreno and *Thamnodynastes ramonriveroi* Manzanilla and Sánchez. **Memoria Sociedad de Ciencias Naturales La Salle (Venezuela)**.

Bailey, Joseph R. and **Robert A. Thomas**. In Press. Systematics of the South American Snake Genus *Thamnodynastes* Wagler, 1830 (Serpentes, Colubridae). IV. Five New Species of *Thamnodynastes* from Eastern Brazil, and Resurrection of *Thamnodynastes nattereri* including a New Subspecies. **ZooTaxa**.

## BROADCAST/TEACHING PRODUCTS

Executive Producer and writer, documentary on the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet, to be finished in Summer 2005 (with Ryan Pastorak).

Writer and talent, one (or more) short documentary pieces for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to be used as introductions to a series of public hearings.

Executive Producer, "Aislamiento de *Taq* Polimerasa," video of a workshop presented by Dr. Patricia Dorn; video will be used in training in Central America.

Executive Producer, "Untitled" video about artificial management of wild stingless bees in Guatemala and its medical implications.

#### **ART SHOWS:**

Craig Hood and **Robert A. Thomas**. "Art Works for the Earth: A Collaboration of Artists and Scientists Addressing the State of Environmental Issues," an art show at Duque Gallery on Magazine Street (we served on the planning committee and developed the science aspects of the exhibit; also served on a special panel that discussed the topic). Week including October 19, 2004.

**Robert A. Thomas** and Leslie Parr. The Maya Village of San Miguel: Traditional Life in a Changing World. Monroe Library, March 10-May 17.

#### **PUBLICATIONS: NON-PEER REVIEWED**

**Robert A. Thomas, R. King Milling, and Lynne Parwell White.** 2004. *Saving "America's Wetland": What it means to you.* **Garden Club of America Bulletin Aug.-Sept.: 3.**

**Horan, Sarah B. and Robert A. Thomas.** 2004. *Walking Guide to the Trails of Asa Wright Nature Centre.* LUCEC. 20 pp. (edited by **R. A. Thomas**)

**Robert A. Thomas.** Future Generations Will be Defined by Environmental Behaviors. *Maroon* August 27 (2004) p 8.

**Robert A. Thomas.** Ecotourism with a purpose: The Toledo Ecotourism Association Conserving Maya Traditions in Belize. *EcoChronicle* No. 3 (61) (2004) 10-11, 21-23 (published both in English and Russian).

**Robert A. Thomas.** Traditions: Always Remembered, the Reason Often Forgotten. *Directions* October-December (2004) pp. 5-6.

**Robert A. Thomas.** Dr. Bob's Excellent Adventure in the Wilds of Belize. *Flow Spring* 2005: 9-13.

Contributed all photographs and editing to the National Wildlife Federation's University Course "The Plight of the Houston Toad and other Amphibians,"  
<http://www.nwf.org/wildlifeuniversity/endangered.cfm>

Four nature columns for Louisiana Levant magazine (the quarterly newsletter of the Lake

Pontchartrain Basin Foundation).

## PRESENTATIONS

**Robert A. Thomas.** “Louisiana’s Wetland Loss: Local Ramifications.” Garden Club of America, Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana, America’s WETLAND Foundation, and LUCEC sponsored workshop, City Park, October 19, 2004.

**Robert A. Thomas.** “The interplay of science and art,” panelist, Art Works for the Earth, Duque Art Gallery, October 19, 2004.

**Robert A. Thomas.** “Birdbanding and its meaning to science,” a full day tour orchestrated for the Society for Environmental Journalists, Pittsburgh, PA, October 21, 2004.

**Robert A. Thomas.** “Case studies of confrontations between business and the environment in Louisiana,” Tulane Business School, Dr. Robert Moreau’s class, October 28, 2004.

**Robert A. Thomas.** "America's Wetland: What You Must Know about its National Significance and its relevance to an Honors Program," National Collegiate Honors Council, New Orleans, November 12, 2004.

**Robert A. Thomas.** “ Case Studies of Louisiana’s Environmental Challenges, with Policy Recommendations,” Dr. Ken Keulman’s Religious Studies Class, December 2, 2004.

**Robert A. Thomas.** “Environmental Politics,” Loyola Institute of Politics, December 7, 2004.

**Robert A. Thomas.** “Diversity: Learning how your brain wants to work,” Metairie Sunrise Rotary Club, December 16, 2004.

**Robert A. Thomas.** “Overview of the endowed Chair Program in Louisiana,” Loyola Institutional Advancement staff, February 10, 2005.

**Robert A. Thomas.** "Communicating Science: The oft forgotten, But Essential Element of Being a Scientist," Mississippi Junior Academy of Science, Raymond, MS, February 11, 2005

**Robert A. Thomas.** “Herpetology then and now: A Perspective from 50 Years in the Field and a View of the Future,” Louisiana Gulf Coast Herpetological Society, New Orleans, February 21, 2005.

**Robert A. Thomas.** "Careers in Environmental Journalism," Society for Professional Journalists state meeting for students, New Orleans, March 5, 2005.

**Robert A. Thomas.** "America's Wetland: What You Must Know about its National Significance," Class from New York University sponsored by Prof. John Snyder, Loyola University, March 14, 2005.

**Robert A. Thomas.** Panel chair and discussant: “Ethics of Human Intervention into Coastal Restoration,” One Book, One New Orleans, New Orleans Center for the Creative Arts, hosted by Tulane’s Center for Bioenvironmental Research, March 29, 2005.

**Robert A. Thomas.** Panel chair and discussant: "Louisiana's Disappearing Coast," Tennessee Williams Literary Festival, New Orleans, April 1, 2005.

**Robert A. Thomas.** Panel organizer, chair and discussant: "How the Media Covers the Environment," Tulane University Annual Environmental Conference, New Orleans, April 2, 2005.

**Robert A. Thomas.** "Louisiana's Wetland Loss and the Role of Leaders," Leadership Slidell, Slidell, April 6, 2005.

**Robert A. Thomas.** "Louisiana's Wetland Loss: National Ramifications." One Book, One New Orleans, Young Leadership Council, April 11, 2005.

**Robert A. Thomas.** "Louisiana's Wetland Loss and the Role of Leaders," New Orleans Regional Leadership Institute, Chalmette, April 13, 2005.

**Robert A. Thomas.** Keynote: "National Implications and Multiple Stakeholders of Louisiana's Wetlands Loss," Woodrow Wilson International Center, City Club, New Orleans, April 14, 2005.

**Robert A. Thomas.** "Contrasts in U.S. and European Approaches to Environmental Concerns," Dr. Cecily Raiborn's Environmental Strategies class, Loyola School of Business, April 15, 2005.

**Robert A. Thomas.** "Role of Loyola University's Center for Environmental Communications in Louisiana Environmental Concerns," Dr. Sherry Lee Alexander's Advanced Reporting Class, Loyola University, April 19, 2005.

**Robert A. Thomas.** Keynote: "Role of Scientists and Engineers in Resolving Environmental Conflict," U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, New Orleans, Earth Day festivities, April 21, 2005.

**Robert A. Thomas.** "The Natural History of Frogs: A Presentation in the Field." Loyola Environmental Studies Program, April 27, 2005.

## **PRESS COVERAGE/INTERVIEWS:**

WVOG/KTIB FM 600, one hour interview on politics of coastal wetlands loss with Dr. Polly Thomas. July 2, 2004.

*Saving state's wetlands will be topic of forum.* Times-Picayune, October 15, 2004, B2 (mentioned as speaker).

WWL TV, Morning Show, to promote the Garden Club of America wetlands workshop, October 19, 2004.

*Duck and Uncover*, by Stewart Yerton. Times-Picayune, November 10, 2004, C1&5. Interviewed and quoted.

WVOGKTIB FM 600 radio, one hour interview on the politics of coastal wetlands loss with Christopher Tidmore.

*Blackwater Refuge Now Nutria-free. Marsh-demolishing Rodent Fended Off Earlier Efforts*, by David A. Fahrenthold, Washington Post, November 17, 2004, B1.  
Interviewed and quoted.

*Loyola Community Involved in Environmental Issues On and Off Campus*, Loyola Today, December 10, 2004, p 1.

WWL TV, Mike Hoss, interview about the loss of historic forts in eastern New Orleans, January 31, 2005.

Louisiana Weekly, Mary LaCoste, *Swamps Could Save South Louisiana from Serious Storm Surge Devastation*, Interviewed and quoted, March 9, 2005.

Local TV stations, invited speaker at Senator David Vitter's announcement of new coastal legislation, March 30, 2005.

CNN, Documentary on Global Climate Change, appeared in the documentary discussing how global climate change will affect Louisiana, premiered April, 2005 (repeated play).

WGSO Radio, Charles Travis interview, LUCEC, April 13, 2005.

WRFK Radio, Jim Ingster Show (hosted by Miriam Davey), "Science, Politics, and Religion," Baton Rouge, May 2, 2005.

WGSO Radio, Bob Christopher show, co-hosted to discuss the environmental quality of the Mississippi River, Metairie, May 3, 2005.

WGSO Radio, Charles Travis interview, Business & Environment, May 3, 2005.

Documentary about the PACT Challenge, Belize, appearance, June, 2005.

Currents (new cable TV channel), Adam Yamaguchi, interviewed for a piece on global warmings effects on coastal Louisiana, July, 2005.

## **MENTORING OF STUDENTS**

The Chair works with many students in mentoring various aspects of their professional development. The students use LUCEC as a source of information and resources, and he mentors students as they pursue their professions, theses in the honors and biology programs, and independent studies projects.

Annually, the chair participates in the Tom Bell Silver Scribe event, hosted by Loyola's Department of Communication and the New Orleans Press Club.

## TEACHING ENHANCEMENT

LIST OF COURSES TAUGHT (those with \* are unique in the state):

Fall 2004

\*CMMN A370 Environmental Communications. 3 cr. 20 students.  
BIOL Z144. Ecology of the Mississippi River Delta. 3 cr. 25 students.

Spring 2005

\*CMMN A371-001. Covering the Environmental Beat. 3 cr. 8 students.  
CMMN A899-002, 003. Independent Study in Environmental Communications. 3 cr. 2 students.  
\*BIOL A118-001. Tropical Ecology. 3 cr. 12 students.

## INDEPENDENT STUDIES, INTERNSHIPS, AND/OR RESEARCH.

Emily Quinn, Fall 2004, CMMN A499, 5 cr, developed a communications plan for the Organization of American States' Small Tourism Enterprise Program.

Krista Whittington, Fall 2004, CMMN A899, 3 cr, attended Institute for Environmental Communications, and did a comparative study of several recent works regarding the petrochemical corridor of Louisiana.

Jason George, Summer 2004, CMMN A499, 3 cr, Analysis of Media Coverage of Africa

Krista Whittington, Summer 2004, CMMN A899, 3 cr, Evaluation of Environmental Risk Communication

Preeti Pradhan-Karnik, Spring 2005, CMMN A899-001, Computerized Risk Assessment Training Program.

Carly St. Romain, Spring 2005, ENVA A497-001, Environmental Practicum: Volunteer work at Studio in the Woods, New Orleans.

Nicolas Gainer, Spring & Summer 2005, ENVA A499-002, Greenhouse Gas Analysis.

Lisa Buchanan, Spring 2005, ENVA A499-003, Environmental Practicum: Self reflection.

Brian Gorman, Spring 2005, Sociology Internship, Design of project to evaluate impacts of a community buy-out.

LECTURES IN OTHER CLASSES: The chair gives many lectures in classes across the

campus and on other college campuses (for the latter, see the Presentations section).

Hosted a class from New York University - lectured on Louisiana's wetlands.

**GRADUATE STUDENTS AT LOYOLA UNIVERSITY:**

Krista Whittington, M.A.

Preeti Pradhan-Karnik, M.A.

**GRADUATE STUDENTS AT OTHER UNIVERSITIES:**

Eileen Banach, LSU Shreveport, M.S.

Laura Vogel, University of New Orleans, Ph.D.

ADVISING: 45 students.

OTHER: See activities listed under Mentoring of Students.

**CURRICULUM INNOVATION/DEVELOPMENT**

The following course, directed at students in the fields across the campus, was taught for the first time in Spring 2003:

**SCIENCE COMMUNICATIONS & CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP.** This graduate course was developed and taught at the request of the Dauphin Island Sea Lab, the Alabama universities consortium. This course will be offered to Louisiana universities as a short course taught between semesters. It trains graduate students how to apply their knowledge and training for improvement of environmental and community challenges. Among other issues, it trains the students how to work with the media and how to become engaged in their communities. A Blackboard site is maintained for the course.

**OTHER EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES:**

Initiated a website that will serve as the Resource Center for the America's WETLAND campaign. It will be officially launched in September, 2005.

Updated class notes for Mississippi River Delta Ecology on the LUCEC website.

Maintained a public Blackboard site that houses course notes and attachments for the delta course, herpetology, and a general natural history section directed at teachers and ecotourism professionals.

Completely updated all courses on Black Board.

Processed over 1000 new slides for use on Black Board and in the classroom.

Continue using *Diversity* (a whole brain model system) for classroom activities (we also administered it to the *Maroon* editorial board).

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

During the past year, the Chair attended a number of training programs regarding the use of computers and teleconferencing, and he attended professional meetings. He learned Dreamweaver software, in connection with one of his grant, thus gaining the ability to maintain the many websites in which he participates. Additionally, he visits with colleagues and hosts visitors in his profession.

With generous funding from Provost's office, the Chair arranged and hosted a workshop on how to use Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for Loyola researchers from three colleges and five departments. Software was purchased for a teaching lab and the desk computers of the attendees.

Additionally, the Chair attended and graduated from the New Orleans Regional Leadership Institute.

## **SEEKING EXTERNAL FUNDING**

USAID/UNO Foundation: \$500,000. (last year of grant). Caribbean Environmental Communications Initiative. During the 18 month duration of this project, our team (which includes several of our faculty) will 1) train Caribbean journalists to cover the environmental beat; 2) establish structure for the existing Caribbean Environmental Reporters' Network (we will hire an Executive Director, set up an office with supplies, and otherwise stabilize a Secretariat); 3) produce a series of radio shows that will air throughout the Caribbean and certain areas of the U.S. and Europe, provide public relations for the Organization of American States' program that encourages small hotels to become sustainable in their operations and to orient toward ecotourism; 4) survey Media House Managers (editors) re their positions and attitudes about the value of environmental news coverage (we will present the results at their annual professional conference); and 5) publish a book on environmental communications/journalism for Caribbean professionals. Funded.

National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (grants through Congressman

Vitter to enhance our understanding of Lake Pontchartrain): \$80,000. Communications Plan and Documentary on the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet. The project will result in 1) the development of the first communications plan on the Mississippi river Gulf Outlet (that will enable the public to understand the issue and the ramifications of policy development), and 2) a one hour documentary for public television. Funded.

Fenner Family Fund: \$500. In support of the Loyola box recycling program. Funded.

America's WETLAND Foundation: \$50,000. To design and implement a website (attached to that of LUCEC) that serves as the America's WETLAND Resource Center. The funding from the Foundation was through support from CH2M Hill, a global engineering firm. Funded.

Collaborative between the International Center for Journalism and LUCEC to provide environmental journalism workshops for Belizean reporters. Funded so far: Oak Foundation, \$50,000; Protected Areas Conservation Trust (Belize), \$25,000.

## **ENHANCEMENT OF PROGRAM/DEPARTMENT QUALITY/REPUTATION**

As LUCEC develops, its reputation is building. The department and university are becoming widely known as a place where people can discuss environmental issues in a constructive, rational, fair atmosphere.

In the first quarter of 2005, the LUCEC website had 10,000 queries, indicating the value of its maintenance.

## **UNITING UNIVERSITY, COMMUNITY, AND BUSINESS/INDUSTRY**

The principal portion of LUCEC that answers this need is the Institute for Environmental Communication (IEC). IEC is held each fall semester. Its purpose is to bring together environmental stakeholders and to stimulate conversations among them. IEC participation has a balance of people from business/industry, the environmental community, government, the media, and the scientific arena. This activity, taking place at the university, creates opportunities that do not exist elsewhere.

Persons completing IEC are named Fellows of the program. There are presently 132 IEC Fellows, all of whom are connected via a LUCEC supported listserv. A new class of 20 participants will begin in August (see <http://www.loyno.edu/lucec/iec>).

The Chair is participating in a new initiative on the Loyola campus that intends to link the efforts of several centers that are engaged in service learning throughout the Greater

New Orleans region. The working plan is to improve Loyola's contributions to the community through the synergism of team approaches including a variety of disciplines.

The Chair participated this year in activities associated with Leadership Louisiana, Leadership Slidell, and the New Orleans Regional Leadership Institute, thus learning more about regional needs and expanding his network among business leaders in the region.

LUCEC works diligently to convince industry and business that sound environmental planning and consideration is a wise investment, for the company and for the citizens of Louisiana. It also works with the environmental community regarding the value of constructive collaboration for environmental improvement, and with government about the need for fair, consistent enforcement of existing environmental regulations and rational evaluation of existing and potential regulations.

LUCEC is presently collaborating with the University of New Orleans Foundation as developer and subcontractor for the Caribbean Environmental Communications Initiative, a project funded by the United States Agency for International Development.

LUCEC has designed a longitudinal study that will follow and assess the well-being of citizens who chose to sell their fence-line homes in the Diamond Community (an African-American neighborhood in Norco, Louisiana) to Shell Chemical and Motiva Enterprises. The Chair is working with recent Loyola graduate Brian Gorman (who designed the project for his senior project in sociology) and Dr. George Capowich, Loyola Department of Sociology.

LUCEC is implementing a resource center that will maintain, in digital format, broadcast news clips on environmental topics in Louisiana. LUCEC presently owns about 1500 news clips on tape, and they will be transferred to digital during Summer and Fall, 2005. When completed, this resource will be made available to the community for teaching purposes and research. The current collection was a gift to LUCEC by Harris Deville, a Baton Rouge governmental affairs agency.

Of paramount importance, LUCEC, through its Coastal Communications Program, is consistently involved in the ongoing thrust to convince the nation that attending to the needs of the rapidly eroding coastal wetlands of Louisiana is in the national interest. LUCEC's involvement includes the Chair giving many talks and presentations, his working with many groups in their programs, helping the media by making connections for them and/or appearing on camera, and by doing guest appearances on radio and TV programs.

## **SERVICE TO COMMUNITY**

### **ENVIRONMENTAL:**

Member, Top 10 by 2010, an initiative of MetroVision.  
Greater New Orleans Foundation Environmental Committee  
Board, Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana., chair the Communications Committee.  
Development Council, Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana.  
Board, Environmental Research Consortium of Louisiana, a not-for-profit organization that does research, communications, and educational projects on the environment of Louisiana  
Board, J. Bennett Johnston Science Foundation, a not-for-profit foundation that funds environmental research in Louisiana  
Board, Asa Wright Nature Centre, Arima, Trinidad  
President of Board, Friends of Asa Wright Nature Centre, Trinidad  
Board, Save Our Lake Endowment  
General Secretary, International Federation of Environmental Journalists  
Board, Caribbean Environmental Reporters' Network  
Leadership Award Committee, Association of Nature Center Administrators

### **OTHER:**

Board, Louisiana Children's Museum  
Archbishop's Community Appeal Committee  
Rotary Club of Metairie Sunrise  
Judge, Biodiversity Journalism Awards, co-sponsored by Conservation International and the Center for International Journalism

## **ORGANIZE EVENTS AND LECTURES BY AUTHORITIES IN THE FIELD**

Hosted visits by environmental professionals including representatives from Azerbaidzahn, Mexico, Uruguay, Thailand, and Jamaica.

## **COLLABORATIONS WITH OTHER SCHOLARS/PROGRAMS**

Adjunct professor at Tulane University(Evolutionary and Organismal Biology), Louisiana State University (Environmental Studies), and the University of New Orleans (Biological Sciences).  
Serving on The editorial board of the Environmental Communication Yearbook, a journal in the field of environmental communications.  
Working on a textbook proposal with Jim Detjen, Knight Chair in Environmental Journalism, Michigan State University.  
Working with Robert Taylor, International Center for Journalism, and Perry Beeman,

reporter for the Demoines Register, developing environmental journalism workshops for Belizean reporters.

Judged the Guyana entries in the Conservation International Biodiversity Awards Program.

Serve on the Loyola Environmental Studies Faculty and Loyola Latin American Studies Faculty.

Advising management of Motiva Enterprises and Shell Chemical Company in Norco, LA, regarding the resolution of environmental justice issues.

Speaking to Silver Scribe competition, chaired by Drs. Larry Lorenz and Leslie Parr.

Working with Shell Oil Refinery (Norco) and local environmental interests to reach an equitable decision on the fate of Bayou Trepagnier. I serve as the go-between.

Leadership role in the formation of the J. Bennett Johnston Science Research Foundation, a concept I developed in 1993 that is coming to fruition. Wrote the early drafts of By-laws and Articles of Incorporations. Worked with the attorneys and CPAs during the submittal of documents

Member of a team (based with Eskew+Dumez+Ripple, and architectural firm) developing a master plan for the RiverCamps, an environmentally sensitive development by the St. Joe Company (I am doing the environmental communications/education component).

Advised Mr. Pat Bryant and Ms. Denise Verret about communications concerns with their work with waste disposal in low income neighborhoods.

Collaborating with the Garden Study Club, New Orleans Town Gardners, and the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana to design and implement a wetlands conference for the Garden Club of America's Conservation Committee in October.

## **ENHANCE ACADEMIC ENVIRONMENT OF PROFESSOR**

The Chair funds provide a base-line of support for the Chair's work and allow time and necessary resources for basic programs and the ability to seek additional support.

## **ENHANCE RESEARCH EFFORTS**

As described in several places above, the funds allow the Chair to fund basic research needs and to travel to important meetings and resource locations.

## **PARTICIPATION IN PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND CONFERENCES**

The Chair participates annually in the meetings and activities of the Society for Environmental Journalism, the International Federation of Environmental Journalists, National Communications Association (Environmental Communications Commission), and the Association of Nature Center Administrators. Other meetings that are relevant

are attended when possible.

## **LEADERSHIP TO COLLEGE AND DIVISION**

The Chair makes the resources of LUCEC available to colleagues throughout the university. He is gradually including more departments in LUCEC activities.

An innovation that he developed (along with Provost Walter Harris) and other endowed professors and chairs is the Provost's Endowed Professors and Chairs Council. Its emerging purpose is to identify projects important to the State of Louisiana and/or the citizens of Greater New Orleans that may be served by being addressed by Loyola's community of endowed scholars. This program may serve as a model to other universities in Louisiana.

Additionally, the Chair served on the College of Arts and Sciences Endowed Professor's Committee, the Environmental Studies Faculty, the Latin American Studies Faculty, and the New Faculty Orientation Committee. The Chair always participates in the President's Open House activities.

The Chair is always ready to enhance the learning environment at Loyola University and consistently uses his resources to help worthwhile initiatives.

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